

#16/IDS
9-4-03
R. Hader

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty. Dkt. No.: 2543-0338

In re Patent Application of:			
HAIR III et al.		Group Art Unit:	2873
Appln. No.:	09/729,853	Examiner:	Lester, E.
Filed:	December 6, 2000		
Title:	OPTICAL VEND-SENSING SYSTEM FOR CONTROL OF VENDING MACHINE		
		Date:	August 1, 2003

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Submitted herewith are the items listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

Item YR, "Declaration of Paul Mason and attached photos and sketch" includes a general sketch of a snack vending machine and photos of the machine. The sketch was previously submitted in the present application in an IDS and Form PTO-1449 filed on August 13, 2001.

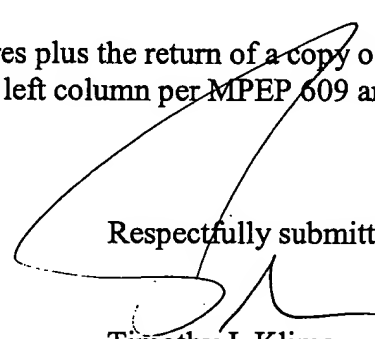
The present application claims priority to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/261,221, which granted as U.S. Patent No. 6,384,402. That patent is currently being asserted against two accused infringers in a patent infringement lawsuit. Item ZR, "Automatic Products International, Ltd. & Gross-Given Manufacturing Co.'s Second Set of Supplemental Responses to Plaintiff's First Set of Interrogatories Nos. 1-10", includes contentions of the defendants in that lawsuit relating to a vending machine sold by Mars, Inc. in the Supplemental Answer to Interrogatory No. 5 beginning on page 4 of the document.

This IDS is intended to be in full compliance with the rules, but should the Examiner find any part of its requirement content to have been omitted, prompt notice to that effect is earnestly solicited, along with additional time under Rule 97(f), to enable Applicant to comply fully.

Please consider this a Request under Rule 97(c), for which the IDS fee (Rule 17(p)) is submitted herewith.

Consideration of the foregoing and enclosures plus the return of a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609 are earnestly solicited along with an early action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,


Timothy J. Klima
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Commissioner of Patents
PO BOX 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Attn: Examiner Evelyn A. Lester

Receptionist: Crystal Plaza 4, 4C23

Dear Examiner Lester,

As discussed by telephone today, forwarded herewith is a copy of the IDS, Form PTO-1449 and cited items filed on August 1, 2003, as well as a copy of the stamped receipt showing the August 1 filing date.

Please contact me should you need anything else.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Klima
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